Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy

1064. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to introduce Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pricing policy for the herbal manufacturing drug in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 86', were announced in September, 1994 and based on that Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy is already in existence.

(c) Existing pricing policy covers drugs used only for Allopathic medicines.

[Translation]

Death of Animals

1065. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of animals have taken place in Kamla Nehru Zoological Park, Indore under mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) On the night of 12th February, 1995, one dog manage to enter the chinkara enclosure. Consequently, 7 chinkaras died. The dog has reported to have killed 2 chinkaras and remaining chinkaras died due to shock and trauma.

(b) and (c) The preliminary enquiry revealed neglect of duty by night chowkidars. The matter has been handed over to police for enquiry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Three night chowkidars and one supervisor have been suspended and the daily wages personnel removed from work. The Zoo has taken initiatives to appoint Ex-Army service men for security purposes. One Assistant Engineer has been posted for looking after the maintenance of the enclosures.

Paddy and Cotton Prices

1066. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under captioned "Akalies, farmer unhappy over hike in paddy cotton prices" appearing in the 'Observer' dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring the Pusa-44 variety in the super fine category;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this variety is being treated in different categories in different States;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to include this variety in the super fine variety in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) In order to maintain uniformity, the Government of India from 1979-80 onwards had decided to adopt existing norms of classification of paddy/rice varieties grown in India on the basis of Balasubramanian Committee's recommendations and only three groups viz. Superfine, Fine and Common were introduced based on the length/breadth ratio for the purpose of classification of paddy/rice varieties. The paddy/rice varieties having natural aroma were kept in a separate group namely 'Scented' irrespective of their length/breadth ratio. Apart from the above norms of classification there is an in-built mechanism in the form of 'Admixture of lower classes' in the uniform specification of paddy and rice which also plays an important role in so far as the classifications of paddy/rice varieties are concerned.